

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/722,289

Applicant(s)

BAMBERGER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Seyed Azarian

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/15/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 12-17 and 23-27, now renumbered as 1-17.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/29/2004
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Response to Amendment

1. Based on applicant's amendment, filed May 15, 2007 see page 8 and 14, of the remarks, with respect to cancellation of claims 7-11, 18-22 and 28-30, and amended claims 1, -3, 12-14 and 23, have been fully considered and are persuasive and upon further consideration the art rejection of 103(a) for claims 1-6, 12-17, and 23-27, are hereby withdrawn.

The claims 1-6, 12-17, and 23-27, now renumbered as 1-17 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

This invention relates generally to a mammogram workstation and a method for using such a workstation.

Based on applicant's amendment, claim 1, representing claim 12, the closest prior art of record (Hartman and Katakura), Hartman references teaches, to properly order and orient a series of mammograms while keeping them grouped by patient, and purpose of Katakura is to print out digital images, but neither Hartman nor Katakura, teach or suggest, among other things, "inputting patient identification data for a series of N patients, where $N > I$, using an inputting device, the identification data stored in a memory of a processor, and the separator film allow for associating the at least one film mammogram between each of two nearest separator films in sequential fashion with the inputted identification data of the series of N patients".

Additionally with respect to claim 23, the closest prior art of record (Hartman and Katakura) does not teach or suggest, among other things, "a scanner operative to receive and digitize radiological film mammograms from a patient and a separator film carrying identifiable features for identifying the film as a separator film; a collating station for receiving the scanned films from said scanner, processing for receiving digitized images from scanner operative to evaluate the digitized images of the film mammograms so as to detect suspicious lesions therein,

further operative to generate output data indicative thereof and to store the data in association with the digitized images, wherein said processing means is further operative to detect said scanned separator film and to assign all subsequent scanned radiographic film mammograms to other patients, a printer in communication with said processing means for producing a printout of the digitized images identifying data and output data relating to the patient, said printer including a conveyor for conveying the printout to said collating station; and means for synchronizing scanner and printer such that the printout of the scanned films of a patient is laid on the scanned film mammograms prior to the delivery to said collating station of said separator film".

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by (Hartman and Katakura) prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (571) 272-7443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Art Unit: 2624

Status information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seyed Azarian
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2624
June 17, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seyed Azarian".